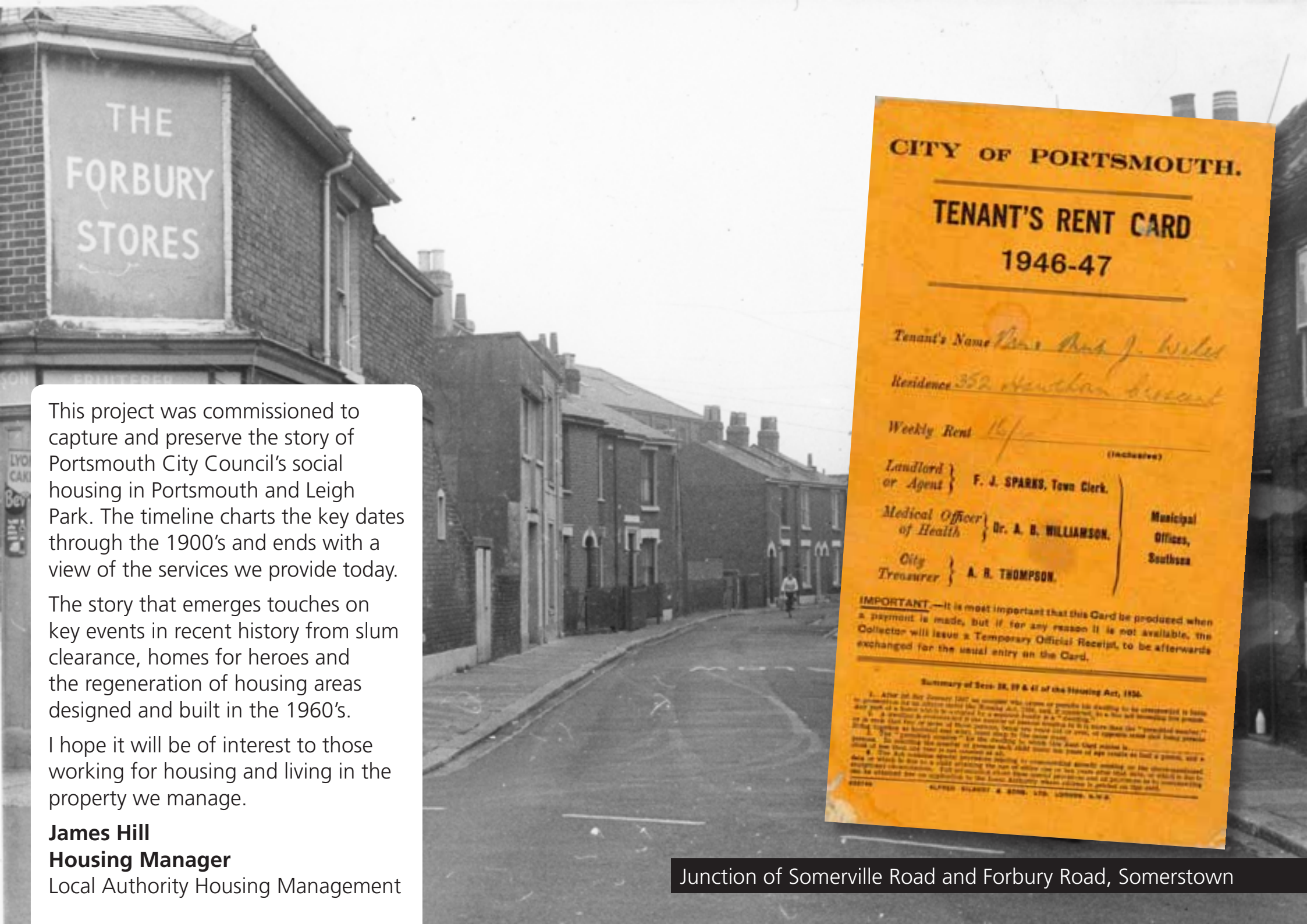




Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

A history of council housing in Portsmouth

www.portsmouth.gov.uk



This project was commissioned to capture and preserve the story of Portsmouth City Council's social housing in Portsmouth and Leigh Park. The timeline charts the key dates through the 1900's and ends with a view of the services we provide today.

The story that emerges touches on key events in recent history from slum clearance, homes for heroes and the regeneration of housing areas designed and built in the 1960's.

I hope it will be of interest to those working for housing and living in the property we manage.

James Hill
Housing Manager
Local Authority Housing Management

Junction of Somerville Road and Forbury Road, Somerstown

Early days

In 1180 the original town of Portsmouth was founded by Jean De Gisors, a wealthy Norman merchant. He created a small settlement in the south-west corner of Portsea Island, dividing the land up into plots for use as housing and a market.

By the early part of the thirteenth century Portsmouth was one of the most important ports in Britain with a population of 1,200. The port exported wool and grain and imported wine, wood, iron, and wax for candles.

In 1495 King Henry VII changed Portsmouth's future by building a dockyard to construct and repair royal ships.

After Charles I's civil war ended in 1646 the town was really thriving and the population had grown to over 3,000. It continued to grow and prosper over the next 200 years following further extensions to the dockyard and the town's fortifications.

By the end of the 17th century the work generated by the dockyard, naval port and businesses which supplied them saw the population grow to bursting point. The first houses were built to the north of the town on the area known as 'The Common', near the dockyard in about 1690.

In the early eighteenth century royal permission was given for people to build houses on Portsmouth Common, near the dockyard. Portsmouth Common changed its name to Portsea in 1792 and in 1801 the population of Portsea had risen to 24,000.

The large houses which developed around Portsea were initially built for artisans – skilled workers who provided quality trade work for the dockyard. As mechanisation took over, less work was available and the larger houses were occupied by more than one family. Sailors, soldiers, merchants, business owners and their employees lived in the area at this time.



Stained glass window of John de Gisors at St Thomas' Cathedral

Early days

The first houses built outside the old city walls for skilled workers were the 'mineral' streets of Copper, Stone, Gold etc. They were subsequently followed by Jubilee Terrace in 1810, creating the beginnings of the middle class suburb of Southsea. Slightly later houses were built in Kings Terrace and Hampshire Terrace.

Originally the town was limited to the South West corner of Portsea Island. During the 19th century, the land which had mainly been farmland and bogs started to be developed, and the population spread across the whole island.



1811

Portsmouth had its first piped water supply, but it was expensive and only the wealthy and middle classes could afford it.

1820

Working class houses were built west of Green Road on land belonging to a Mr Somers, and the new area of Somerstown was born. Development of a small area near Rivers Street was called Allenstown after a Mr. Allen but the name did not survive and Allenstown was absorbed into Somerstown.



Somerstown

1849



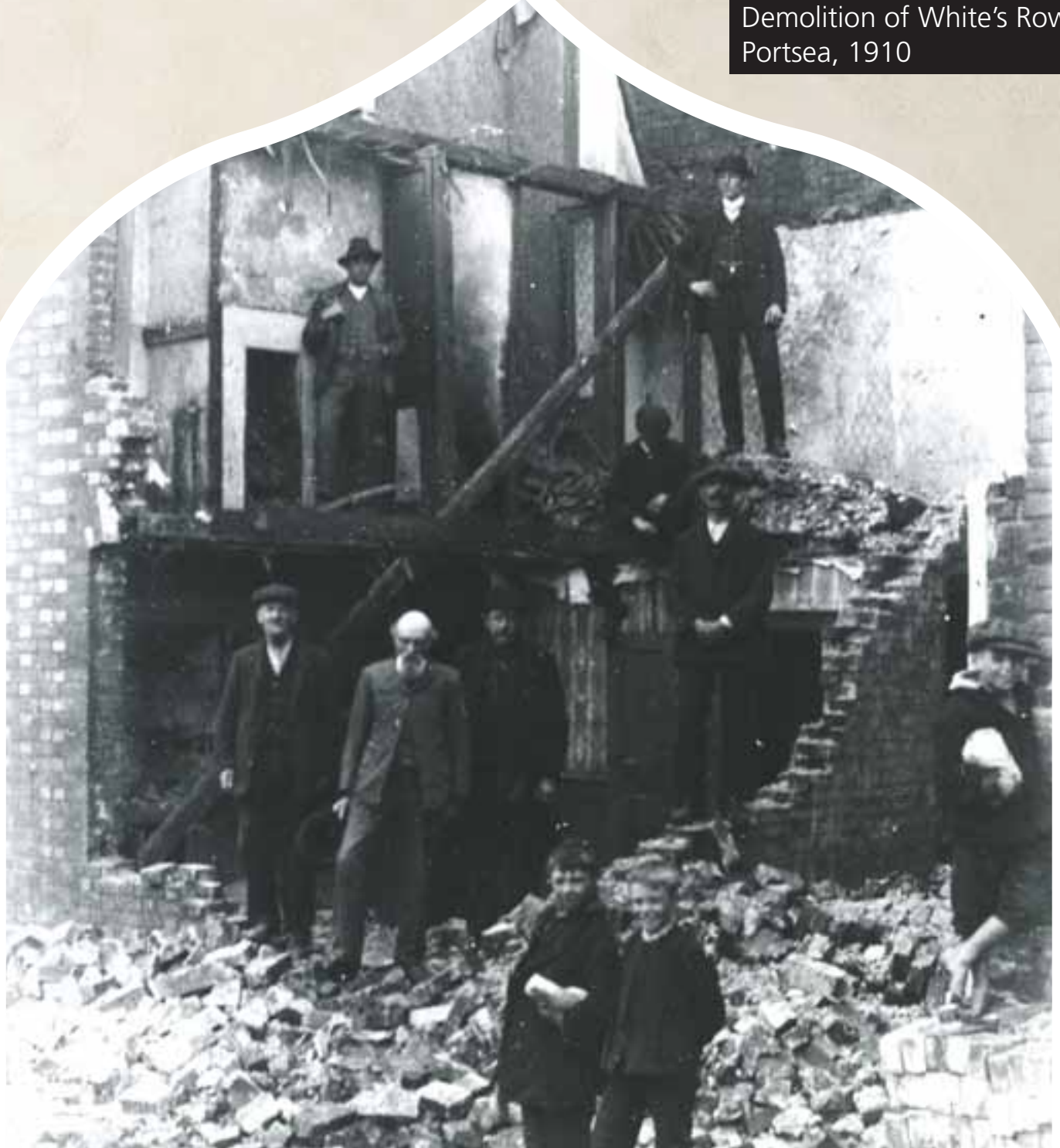
A cholera epidemic killed around 1,000 people, mostly in Portsea. Many houses consisted of four rooms for nine or ten occupants, with a foul open drain running behind which made housing areas a breeding ground for diseases like cholera.

1850

Living conditions across the country reached such an insanitary state that a report was commissioned by government health inspector and sanitarian, Robert Rawlinson, into the health conditions in many towns, including Portsmouth.

An extract from the Rawlinson report describes Portsmouth as “one huge cesspool” and continues, “At present the soldiers’ wives and families inhabit one of the most wretched, crowded and unhealthy quarters of the town; and the usual haunts of the sailor, when on shore, are dens so vile and degraded that language cannot describe them.”

Demolition of White's Row, Portsea, 1910



1885

An act was passed in Parliament during this year that would offer some relief for Portsmouth's poor. The Housing of the Working Classes Act was fuelled by a string of dismaying reports into squalid housing. The act laid out acceptable standards of housing, and gave local authorities the power to clear slums and rebuild.

FIRST REPORT
OF
HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS
FOR INQUIRING INTO
THE HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from any of the following Agents, viz.,
Messrs. HANSARD and SON, 13, Great Queen Street, W.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, Westminster;
Messrs. EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, and Sale Office, House of Lords;
Messrs. ADAM and CHARLES BLACK, of Edinburgh;
Messrs. ALEXANDER THOM and CO., LIMITED, or Messrs. ROGERS, FISCH, and Co., of Dublin.

1885.

[C.—4402.] Price 11d.

History of housing



1898 · FRONT ELEVATION ·

The Garden City Movement was founded in Britain by Sir Ebenezer Howard, who cared passionately about social issues and the welfare and quality of peoples' lives.

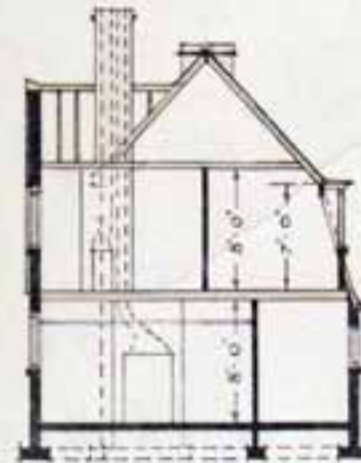
It was while working as a journalist in Chicago that he started to imagine living in an ideal world which embraced nature. His dream contrasted enormously with the poverty and terrible living conditions in the world where he lived.

In 1898 he published his book, 'To-morrow: A peaceful path to real reform', which was reprinted in 1902 as 'Garden cities of tomorrow'. Garden cities were developed as self-contained communities surrounded by greenbelts, with carefully balanced areas of homes, industry, and agriculture. His book influenced and inspired town planners and architects and was employed in the development of the estates which emerged around Wymering, and the Henderson Road estate in Eastney.

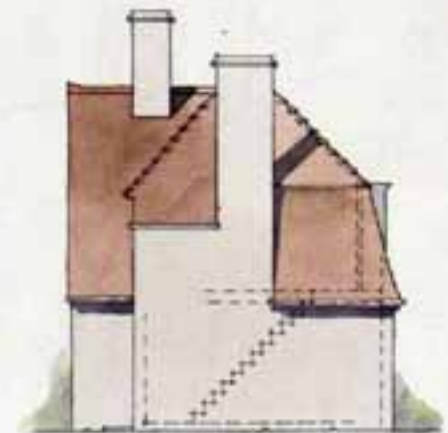
It was expensive to maintain these perfect town and city designs, and eventually development slowed, but the ideals were carried through into the 1930's.



· BACK ELEVATION ·



· SECTION A-A ·



· END ELEVATION ·

· SCAPER OVERALL · 520 FT ·

· CUBIC CONTENTS · 10,964 FT ·



Elevations of the Eastney Farm Estate

38
13

Life in the slums of Portsea in the early 20th century

Many properties in Portsea were badly constructed and regularly collapsed around their occupants. Houses were mainly constructed of New Forest Oak, like HMS Victory, with only a brick fireplace. They were riddled with damp, and the walls were so infested with bugs that the wallpaper seemed to move despite the best efforts of tenants to get rid of them.

Mortality rates were 2½ times higher than the rest of Hampshire with 1/3 of the deaths from tuberculosis. Many children died before the age of two from gastric and intestinal illnesses. Inflammation of the bowels was a common form of death.

Groups of houses were often laid out in courts and these made up a labyrinth of alleyways. Houses were often condemned but residents still lived there at a reduced rent or for free. At a rent of between three and nine shillings per week most tenants stayed as they couldn't afford anywhere else.

Butcher W Kent on the corner of Whites Row and Queen Street



Many houses contained between two and four rooms, with some rooms too dangerous to use. One family even discovered an old smuggler's hiding place in their attic, with the doors papered over. Families cooked in the cramped living area, sometimes over a fire, other lucky tenants had cookers. Some found it so difficult to cook that for a small fee they took their meals to be cooked by the local butcher, baker or greengrocer.

Life in the slums of Portsea in the early 20th century

The landlords of these properties were generally local business owners – a public house owner, fishmonger, fruit stall owner, fisherman, builders merchant and magistrate among them. The landlords would often send rent collectors as they did not want anyone to know they owned these properties, but the collectors were sometimes afraid to enter these areas alone. Even the police patrolled in pairs and children did not venture out after 10pm because of the drunken sailors, prostitutes and criminals that roamed the streets.

Tenants shared water, outside toilets and washing facilities with up to sixteen other properties, and shared the cleaning of these facilities between them.

Poor families were given clothes and furniture by the Salvation Army and there was a soup kitchen at All Saints Church. The Salvation Army provided farthing breakfasts of bread, jam, porridge and cocoa for local schoolchildren, most of whom attended the Beneficial School. Animals bound for the slaughterhouse were driven around the Dockyard walls and children awoke to the death squeals of piglets.

Children dressed up for a play at the Beneficial School, 1920's



Life in the slums of Portsea in the early 20th century

The occupants of these houses were generally dockyard workers – coal heavers, ordinary seamen, horse and cart drivers, signpainters, blacksmiths, some of them former soldiers. Dockyard labouring work was not always available and men were sometimes unemployed for weeks. Their wives often cleaned for wealthier families or took in sewing and laundry.

However difficult conditions were there was still a good community spirit. Food was cheap and readily available and kindly local business owners would often throw Christmas parties for the children and take them on horse and cart trips out to Leigh Park. There was a lot of assistance from The Salvation Army, Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, pawn brokers, local rabbi, school teachers and policemen. Queen Street was a thriving area with many businesses and suppliers such as tailors and corset makers, servicing the Dockyard and local people.



1909

Dr Mearns Fraser, Portsmouth's Medical Officer of Health recommended to the Lord Mayor that slum clearance should finally begin under the Housing of the Working Classes Act. His original request had been turned down in 1903 due to the expense involved.

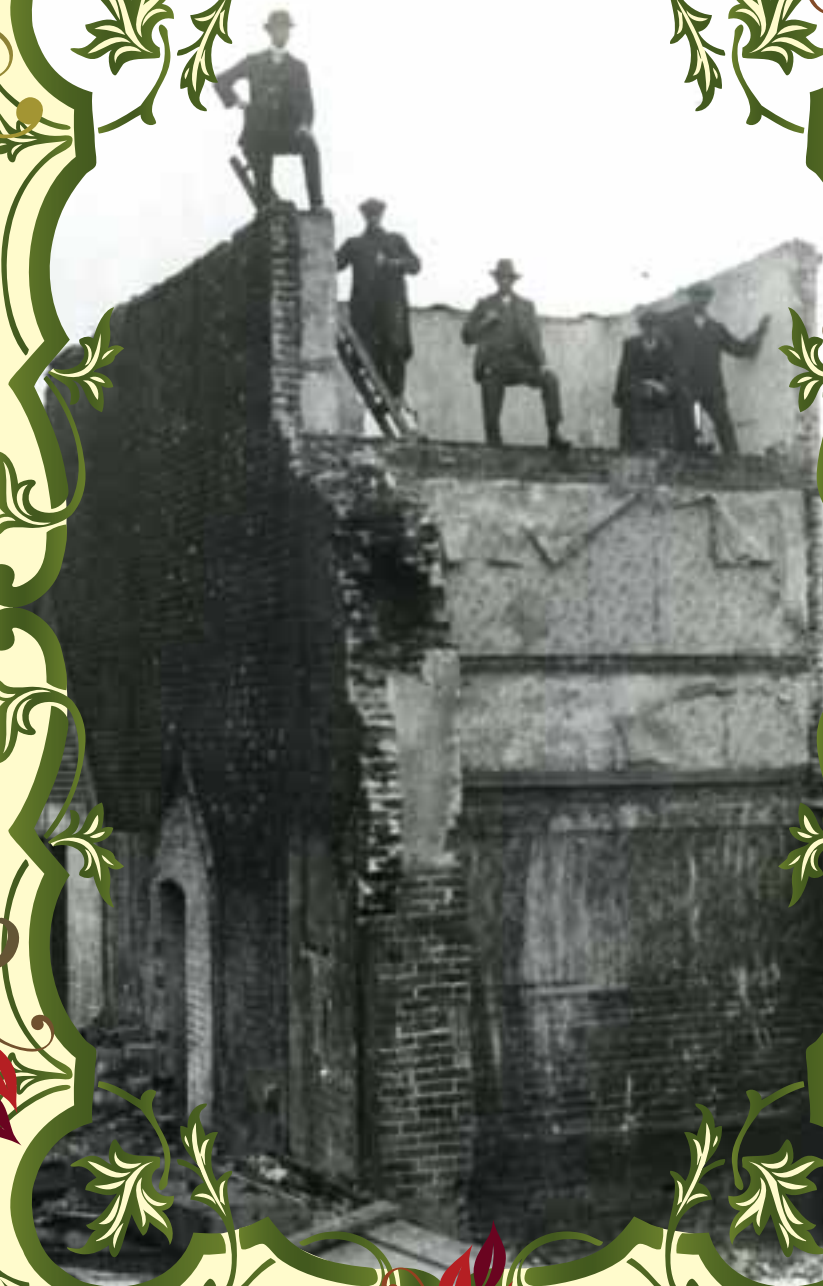
He described houses in the slums of Portsea as '.....old and dilapidated, and the streets are so narrow that it is impossible for a sufficient circulation of fresh air to take place.'

Slum housing in Britain Street, Portsea.
Photograph supplied by kind permission of Anthony Triggs



1910

200 properties were demolished in Whites Row, Portsea, one of the worst slum areas. Before demolition took place the houses were set alight to kill the vermin, bugs and fleas that infested them.



Demolition of White's Row, Portsea, 1910

1912

The council began slum clearance on a large scale under the 'Housing of the Working Classes Act'. The land which the council purchased formed a rough square between Queen Street (north), Kent Street (south), King's Bench Alley (east) and Southampton Row (west).

The principles of the clearance scheme were:

1. To provide a good wide thoroughfare, bright and attractive to look at, and healthy and pleasant to live in...incidentally transforming the worst conglomeration of slum property in the borough with a model working-class residential neighbourhood.
2. To secure as large a number of good working-class houses at moderate rents, as can, with due regard to health and amenity, be placed upon the area.
3. To provide an open space, planted with trees, which shall be a lung for the neighbourhood, and afford a playground for the children.

Provision was needed to re-house people displaced by slum clearance and the corporation began building in the years that followed.

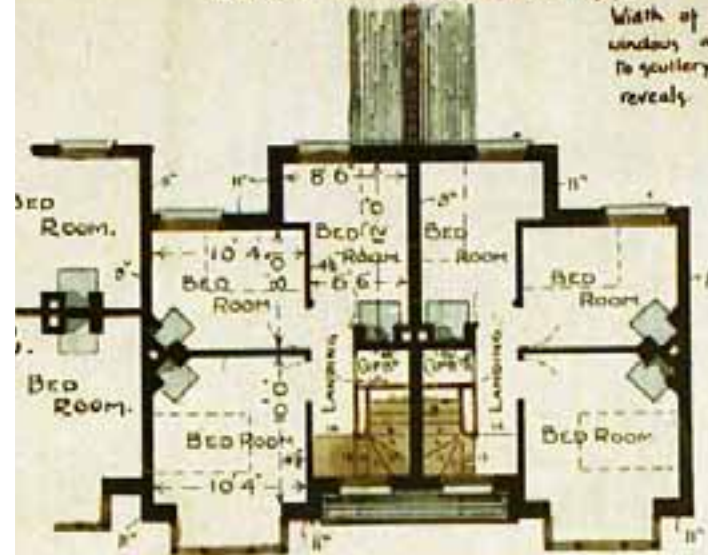
PORTSEA IMPROVEMENT SCHEME. PROPOSED DWELLINGS, DESIGN B.

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 Scale of Feet

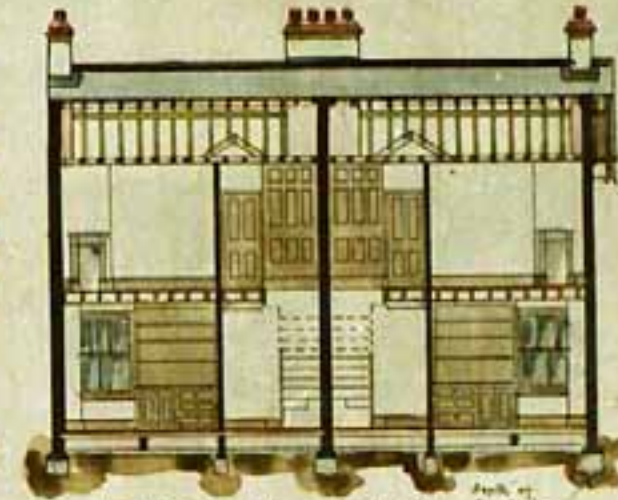


BACK ELEVATION. NOTE

Width of double hung windows at four, except for gullery, 5'6" between reveals.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.



LONGITUDINAL SECTION.



CROSS SECTION.

Elevations of properties at Curzon Howe Road

1919

591 homes were built under the 1919 Housing Act in Copnor, Eastney (Henderson Road Estate), Milton, North End and Wymering.

Councillor Spickernell, inspired by the Ebenezer Howard's Garden City Movement built two areas of Portsmouth in this style to accommodate men returning from war.

The 'Homes fit for heroes' in Wymering were built in First, Second and Third Avenues, and on the north side of Medina Road. The 243 homes in Henderson, Bransbury, Cadnam, Eastney Farm, Gritanwood and Minstead Roads in Eastney provided tree-lined streets and houses with spacious gardens but were more expensive than conventional housing.

In 1935 the Henderson Road estate was purchased by the council for housing stock.



1922-24



The council built a small estate of 100 houses at Wymering between 1920 and 1924. The new streets were named First, Second and Third Avenues and the area was called Wymering Garden Village.

951 properties were built under the 1924 Housing Act in Portsea, Drayton, Eastern Road, Hilsea Portsdown Hill and Stamshaw.

1927

Portsmouth's first housing manager, George Rogers, was employed by the council, but he worked from home as there was no available office at the Guildhall. At that time the housing service was part of the City Treasurers office.

The Guildhall had been built in 1889 and opened by the Prince of Wales. Almost the entire building was destroyed by incendiary bombs during a raid in January 1941. Nothing could be done to extinguish the fires. The thick walls of the room which housed the city's archives and valuable treasures protected them from most of the damage.

The original Guildhall housed a 1,600 seat hall, walnut-panelled chambers and corridors, banqueting rooms, departmental offices, a valuable organ, pictures and statuary, and other prized civic possessions.

A new Guildhall was rebuilt after the war and opened in 1959 by the Queen.

Portsmouth Guildhall, 1922



1930-32



City Treasurers Dept 1951. George Rogers is seated 12th from the left, front row.

Photograph kindly donated by Mrs Hatch

1148 houses and flats were built under the 1930 Housing Act in Landport, Portsea and Cosham.

After 'squatting' in the Guildhall basement for a few years, George Rogers was officially recognised as a section head on a salary of £300 per year. Initially he employed one clerical assistant, a typist and three staff who spent two days per week collecting rents, and three days per week visiting tenants and dealing with complaints.

In his twenty-eight year career at Portsmouth City Council, George saw the housing stock grow from 600 to 16,000 properties, steering the housing service through slum clearance, post-war rebuilding and the foundation of Paulsgrove, Wymering and Leigh Park. He was described as a patient, kind and understanding man. When he retired in 1955 he said that he felt proud that Portsmouth had the second lowest rent arrears in the country.



1939



The city was turned upside down from 1939-1944 during the Second World War. 930 people in Portsmouth were killed by bombs. 6,625 houses were destroyed (nearly 10% of the total) and a further 6,549 were severely damaged, with 80,000 being damaged in some way.

1944



The population of Portsmouth was expanding rapidly and an urgent need arose to house residents displaced by bomb damage and slum clearance, with servicemen returning from war and families coming back after evacuation.

Following secret negotiations the council purchased 1,672 acres of land at Leigh Park for £122,465, including Leigh Park House. Construction on the Leigh Park estate continued for a further 25 years.

Leigh Park House

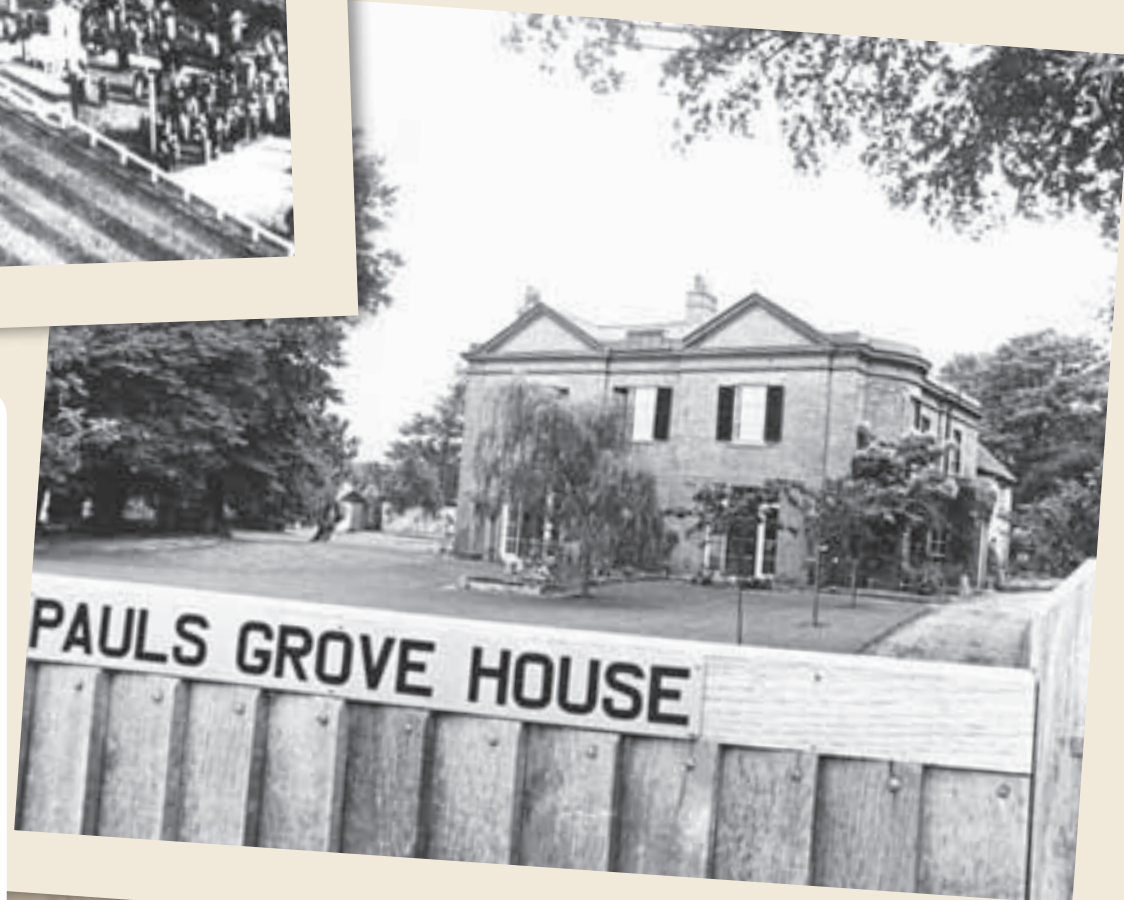
1945



Wymering Racecourse, 1914-1918

Butcher George Cooper owned 100 acres of land in Paulsgrove and lived in the stately Paulsgrove House. He owned a racecourse for horses and motorcycles on the lower slopes of Portsdown Hill but racing was stopped by the war. Occupying most of the southern slopes of Portsdown Hill, the land at Paulsgrove had traditionally been used for farming and chalk quarrying.

Sadly, Paulsgrove House was demolished in 1970 to make way for the M27. In 1945 to assist with the problem of overcrowding in Portsmouth, the council purchased George Cooper's land for 3,000 houses at £103,500, and the first 1,000 houses were completed by December 1946. Initially the land had been marked as a colony for the mentally ill.



Paulsgrove House

History of housing



Laying foundations of houses in Paulsgrove

Early residents of Wymering and Paulsgrove were delighted with their new homes.

Resident Dennis Colley said "This side of Wymering Lane was all fields when we were youngsters. We used to have a lovely time there, you know."

Because of the time construction took, temporary prefabricated bungalows (prefabs) were built on Portsdown Hill where the M27 now stands. The prefabs had an aluminium frame with an asbestos roof and were put up in four pieces, one of which already had the plumbing installed. The pieces were then bolted together on a concrete base, the whole building being completed within only a few hours.

Early occupants of these prefabs were asked to sign a document stating that they agreed to move out in 10 years time when the homes were due to be demolished. More than 700 prefabs were built in Portsmouth during this time.

Nontraditional building methods were used to get the estate built quickly. Three types of nontraditional building methods were used – the Easiform, Howard and British Iron and Steel Federation House (B.I.S.F.). The frame of two Howard or B.I.S.F. houses could be put up in one day by four men.

About 1,000 B.I.S.F. houses were built here and less of the Easiform and Howard types. The estate was built in the Garden City style, with lots of open spaces, short terraces and houses with gardens. The houses were large, with at least three bedrooms, hot running water, bathrooms, inside toilets and electricity. One resident described them as 'little palaces'.

History of housing

Diane and Irene Goldsmith, Deerpark Crescent, Paulsgrove, 1949



Resident Betty Ralph said:
"Well of course they were the,
the last word in modernisation in
1949, people that were going into
council houses were considered
to be very, very lucky... you had to
have two children, to move into a
Paulsgrove house."

Feedback from residents was positive initially but there were no shops in Paulsgrove. The shops at Cosham were within walking distance and mobile shops also visited the estate. Temporary shops were housed in 'Black' or 'Nissen huts' on the north side of Allaway Avenue and were eventually replaced by permanent shops on the south side of the road in the early 1950's.

1946



Leigh Park, pre estate

An additional 798 acres of land was purchased at Leigh Park bringing the total land purchased to 2,470 acres at a total cost of £135,000 (£54 per acre).

54 houses – the first permanent council-owned houses after the war – were built in Peterborough Road, Wymering. The Lord Mayor cut the first sod and four months later, on 11 July, the first house was opened and a family of two adults and two children moved in.

Peterborough Road, Wymering

1947

Work started on the first houses in Leigh Park, and on 15 September the first sod was cut by the Lord Mayor. The council decided that 25,000 people needed to be re-housed in Leigh Park in up to 7,000 homes. A sports ground, swimming pool and shopping centre were planned, however the first shops were not built until at least five years later.

The Lord Mayor officially opened the thousandth house on the Wymering estate on 16 April 1947, and the two thousandth on 21 November of the same year.

1949



Adsdean Close, Leigh Park

The first residents moved into the new properties in Bramdean Drive, Leigh Park. Although apprehensive about moving to a new and rural area, most of the residents were happy to escape the overcrowding in Portsmouth and move into the fabulous open spaces and green fields of the countryside.

Leigh Park resident Ivy Waldron moved in to her 'beautiful' new house in May 1949. She said: "There was a nice front and back garden, three bedrooms and woods at the bottom of the road. We thought we were very lucky."

"I have been very happy with my neighbours, they have been very friendly. I have never wanted to move back to Portsmouth."



Park Parade shops, Leigh Park

Despite their lovely new homes, life was still hard for those early Leigh Park residents. Many people had a long cycle to work, and there were initially no pavements, streetlights or shops.

Park Parade shops were the first to be built, followed by the Greywell Precinct. The industrial estate brought employers such as Kenwood and Plessey to the area, and churches, schools, doctors, and a community centre all followed.

1950-53



In 1950 two permanent primary schools, Hillside Boys School and Hillside Girls School were built to replace the temporary classrooms housed in 'Nissen huts'.

1952 The first shops in Leigh Park were opened in Stone Square. This was great news for residents who, since 1949, had previously needed to travel to Havant or used a mobile grocery van for their shopping.

1953 The Wymering Estate was completed.

New Schools
PORTSMOUTH'S newest schools, the Hillside County Primary, were officially opened yesterday by the Lord Mayor. They are considered to be equal to the best schools in the country. They are the first to be built by the Portsmouth Education Committee since the war and they are a welcome addition to our altogether inadequate educational buildings. The proposal to provide school accommodation at Paulsgrove was first considered by the Education Committee in 1938, when it was decided that plans should be prepared for a new school for 700 infants and juniors and that as a matter of urgency temporary premises for 300 infants and juniors should be provided. Accordingly Hillside Temporary School was opened in 1940. Plans for the provision of a permanent building were well advanced when war came in 1939, but no more was done until the cessation of hostilities. With the development of the Paulsgrove Housing Estate it became apparent that the previous proposals of the Education Committee were no longer adequate, and it was agreed in 1946 that a permanent school should be provided on the Hillside site for 1,000 pupils. We now have a really modern school, in fact a magnificent pile which can be spoken of with pride and satisfaction by both teachers and scholars privileged to work there.



1954-55



1954 A wooden public library was built in Paulsgrove. This was popular with residents but was eventually knocked down in 1985 to make way for a more permanent library.

1955 By May the council had completed 9,000 houses since 1945, and was now preparing to replace approximately 7,000 sub standard properties. There was controversy over communities being broken up and property owners were not satisfied with the amount of compensation they received.

The Park Parade shopping centre was built at Leigh Park.

1958

Buckland



Sarah Robinson House, Portsea



Wingfield Street, Buckland

The housing department was created to deal with the management of the estates and plans were made to appoint a Director of Housing at a salary of £1,790 – £2,065pa.

Previously all housing admin and finance was managed by the City Treasurer's department, but this would now be dealt with by housing.

The first council programme of re-housing 3,800 displaced families and individuals on Portsea Island began and was completed in 1968. Some of the slum areas were replaced by

blocks of flats and maisonettes which offered more space and amenities.

High blocks were serviced by lifts with internal telephone systems which offered older people better facilities than the draughty old houses with outside toilets they had been used to. Even though residents were happy with their modern comforts such as underfloor heating, electric light and hot water, some did not like using the lifts and this made them feel isolated.

1959



JD Dant (B.sc, F.R.I.C.S, F.I.Hsg) was employed as director of housing along with a deputy.

The first housing office in Portsmouth was created at 1 Clarence Parade and Victoria House next door. It was responsible for lettings, general administration, rents and estate management, maintenance and property improvements. Housing was now responsible for maintaining its own buildings which had previously been looked after by the city architects department. A chief maintenance assistant was appointed.

Dant wrote a report investigating the advantages of decentralising the department, based on the principles undertaken in Bristol, where nine estate offices had been established.

In each of the Portsmouth offices, Dant recommended that an area housing officer should be responsible for rent collection, rent records, tenancy records, the letting of garages but not of houses, welfare work, reports on application for transfers, exchanges between tenants on the estate, interviewing and advising members of the public and of local authorities, and liaison with the maintenance section.

At this stage he only suggested setting up an office at Paulsgrove along with the central office in Portsmouth, and Leigh Park. The central office would deal with lettings and general administration, rents and estate management, and maintenance and improvement of property. Eventually seven local offices were established across the Portsmouth City Council-owned area.

1961



A special joint committee started investigations into social problems relating to overspill housing. These problems included loss of younger, economically active households in the city, friction with neighbouring authorities and an ageing population which increased demand for welfare services.

The committee believed that too many elderly people were being housed in high-rise blocks in central Portsmouth and younger families were living and working in Leigh Park and Paulsgrove.

They needed to re-balance the population and bring young, able-bodied residents back to the city.

The committee suggested building one bed units for the elderly in Crookhorn and Wecock Farm, multi-storey flats in Nelson Road, Wellington Road, Church Street, Queen Street and Somers Road, housing 2,000 people.

5-10% were to be built as two storey units and the rest flats and maisonettes, with 50% in multi-storey blocks.

1963



Paulsgrove community centre

Paulsgrove community centre was opened by Christopher Chataway, the parliamentary secretary to the minister of education. It was shared between the youth centre (four nights a week) and community association for the other three nights.



Leigh Park old housing office

Housing offices were opened at Leigh Park and Paulsgrove. The Leigh Park office employed one clerk, one typist, one housing inspector and one maintenance officer.

A new community centre was built in Leigh Park.

rent problems were ignored
strong Guildhall Square
situation would be brought
— but said on

Portsmouth rent



FREE
— TO ALL BOYS —
A SPLENDID
PLASTIC
WALLET

PLUS
FOUR
FULL COLOUR
PHOTO CARDS
of these star
INTERNATIONAL



5,000 AT START OF GUILDHALL MARCH

Rent protest by Portsmouth Council tenants

Between 4,000 and 5,000 people, led a pipe band, and waving multi-colored banners, marched on Portsmouth Guildhall this afternoon.

left Hilsen Modern Boys' School at 2:15, to be en route by others, organized or disorganized, with aught in mind—to make their protest against the council rents.

workers from the
came first, followed
contingent

use the rest — from the Eastern Road and other outlying areas.

The tenants staged a similar march protesting against the proposed rent increase, of



Ready for the rent protest march today, these Leigh Park householders had a rhyming banner. EN2498

Even though the lower earning families were told they would be able to claim a rebate, many were enraged about the

Eventually in 1965, an independent auditor from Chelmsford conducted an enquiry and recommended that the rents be increased by 13.5%.

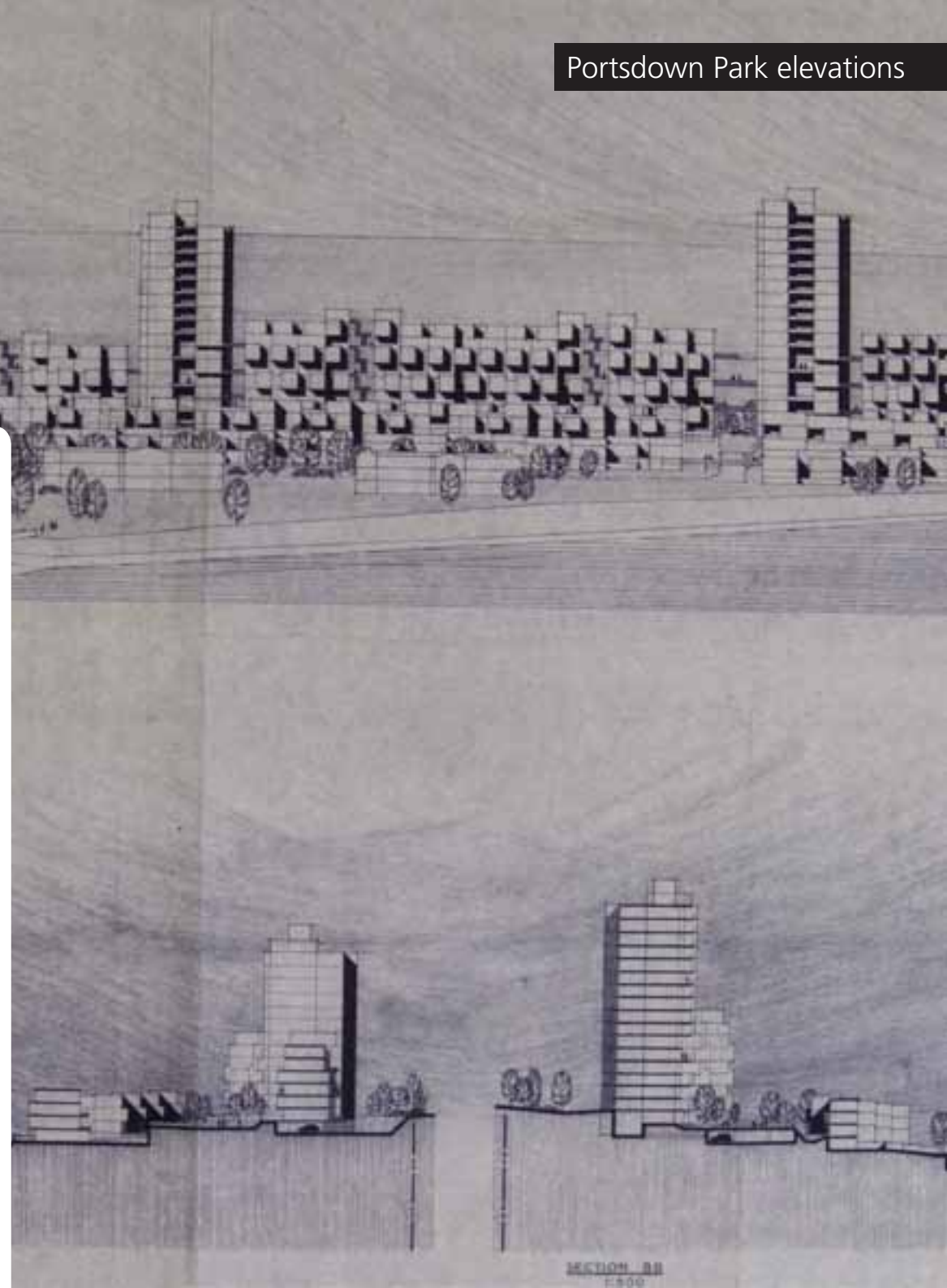
1965-66

1965 Development started on the Portsmouth Park estate on the slopes of Portsmouth Hill. The 17.5 acre estate consisted of 520 homes made up of the following:

- 161 flats in tower blocks
- 288 maisonettes
- 12 penthouse flats
- Six three bedroom houses
- 20 one bedroom bungalows for elderly persons
- 31 houses
- One newsagent
- One grocer
- One pub
- One small community hall

The estate was designed by the winners of a nationwide design competition, chartered architects Theakston and Duell, was built by Y J Lovell Ltd. and managed by the Paulsgrove housing office.

1966 The Greywell shopping centre was built in Leigh Park.



1970

In the 1970's the fashionable 'Ronan point'-constructed high-rise blocks in Landport and Somerstown had to be strengthened. This followed worrying design faults highlighted by a gas explosion in the same design of flats in Wandsworth during 1967. The explosion had caused a progressive collapse of a number of flats which used a panel system of construction with load-bearing walls.

The eight blocks of flats in Portsmouth with a similar system were Solihull, Leamington, Tipton, Edgbaston, Barkis, Nickleby and Wilmcote House, and Cannock Lawn, a total of 995 dwellings.

Gas supplies to the flats were cut off and expensive alternative forms of heating and cooking were installed. The steel frames of the flats were strengthened at a cost of £500,000, with the government providing 50% of the cost.



Leamington House

1975

-76



Estella Road flats, Buckland

1975 Work was well under way in Buckland, Crookhorn and Wecock Farm. By far the most controversial building was that of six 6-storey blocks at Buckland which shielded the Buckland redevelopment area from the noise of the north-south road.

The development area consisted of a special school, day nursery, health centre, community centre and flats for the elderly.

South Brighton Street housing office



1976 The housing department moved in to the newly completed Civic Offices after ten years in South Brighton Street near the Guildhall. The council's housing stock reached 27,000.

1980



In 1980, the government introduced its own 'right to buy' scheme. Over 13,000 properties have been purchased by former tenants. 1,800 are leaseholders, the rest own the freehold. The properties were offered to tenants at a discounted rate provided they met certain criteria.

The right to buy has actually been available since 1953, however Margaret Thatcher's government promoted and encouraged sales and made it government policy under the housing act of 1980.

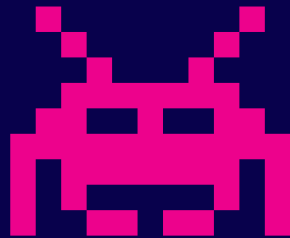
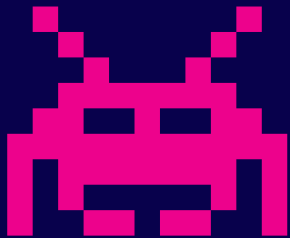
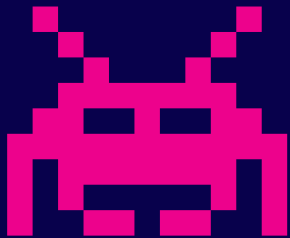
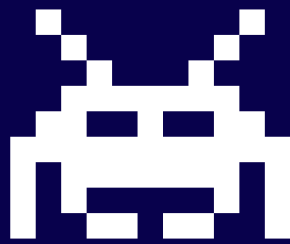
Tenants had the right to buy their own home at the current market value, and to encourage them to take up the scheme, discounts were given to residents according to the duration of their tenancy. If, however, the house was sold during a minimum period of time, then some of the discount would have to be paid back. Money from the sale of the homes was used by local authorities to pay off their debt and the idea was to reduce council housing stock.

Initially sales were very high but they have declined over recent years (see list below).

Current records reflect the following sales figures from 2001:

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2001/2 | 309 properties sold | (94 flats, 215 houses) |
| 2002/3 | 388 properties sold | (133 flats, 255 houses) |
| 2003/4 | 408 properties sold | (151 flats, 257 houses) |
| 2004/5 | 230 properties sold | (119 flats, 111 houses) |
| 2005/6 | 118 properties sold | (55 flats, 63 houses) |
| 2006/7 | 111 properties sold | (51 flats, 60 houses) |
| 2007/8 | 100 properties sold | (46 flats, 54 houses) |
| 2008/9 | 18 properties sold | (10 flats, 8 houses) |
| 2009/10 | 35 properties sold | (14 flats, 21 houses) |
| 2010/11 | 31 properties sold | (19 flats, 12 houses) |

1984



Portsmouth Park during demolition



Portsmouth Park was demolished following structural and social problems. Many difficulties plagued the estate, the worst of which was water penetration and condensation due to poor design. Corrective works and insulation were carried out but were expensive and ongoing.

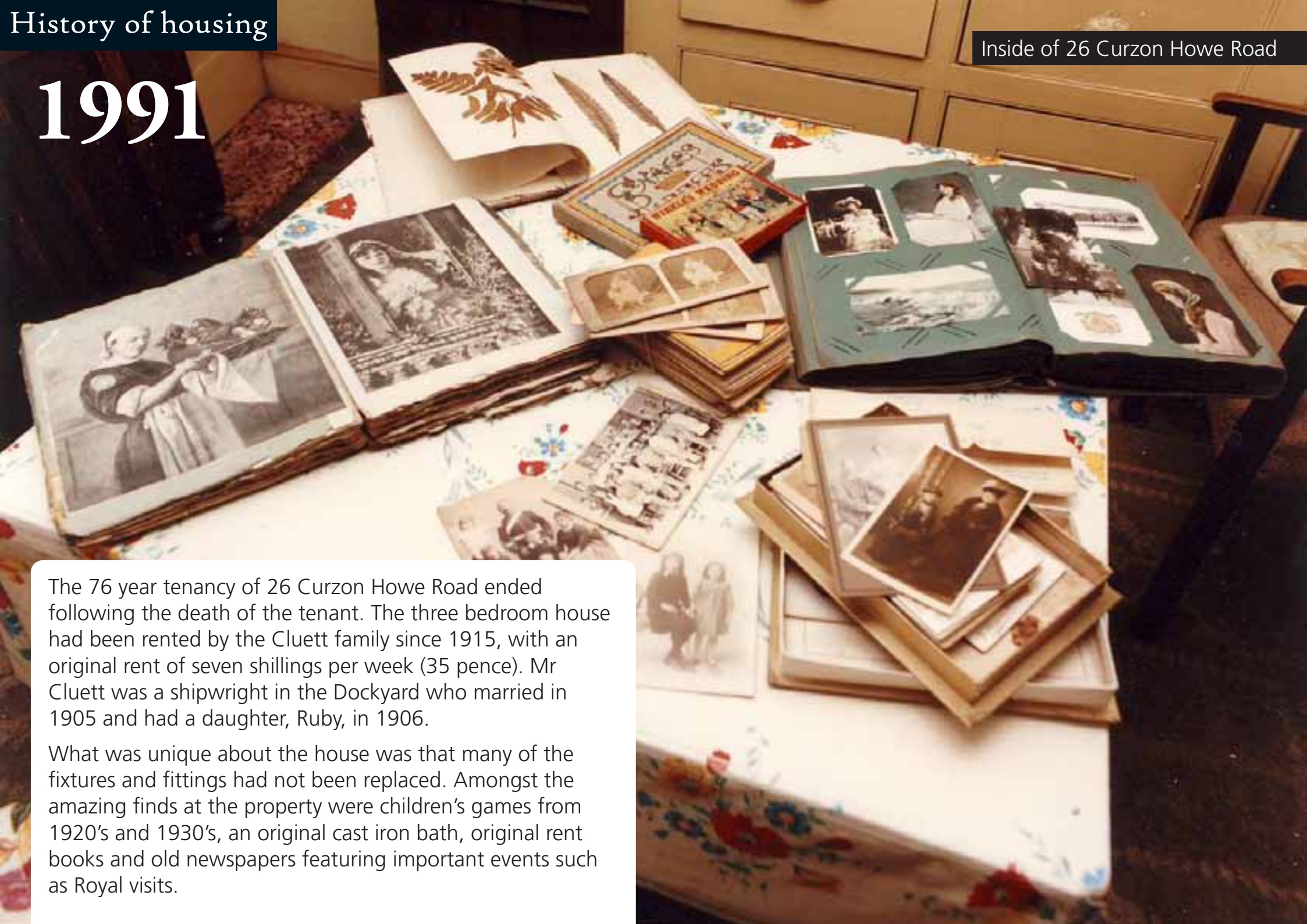
There were problems caused by speeding car drivers, residents ignoring walkways, too many car parks, vandalism, graffiti and small outbreaks of arson. The estate had a poor public image, inadequate community facilities and residents understandably lacked community spirit. The council considered various options including sale to a private developer and expensive improvement works, but demolition was the only solution.



1991

The 76 year tenancy of 26 Curzon Howe Road ended following the death of the tenant. The three bedroom house had been rented by the Cluett family since 1915, with an original rent of seven shillings per week (35 pence). Mr Cluett was a shipwright in the Dockyard who married in 1905 and had a daughter, Ruby, in 1906.

What was unique about the house was that many of the fixtures and fittings had not been replaced. Amongst the amazing finds at the property were children's games from 1920's and 1930's, an original cast iron bath, original rent books and old newspapers featuring important events such as Royal visits.



2004

Jamieson Terrace, Paulsgrove



Eight eco-friendly, energy efficient Houses were built in Jamieson Terrace and Hillsley Road in Paulsgrove.

The concept for the eco homes started in the 1990's in an effort to help reduce residents' energy costs and lower contributions to global warming. The properties were then planned, designed and drawn up in 2000. The buildings were completed in 2004 and residents moved in during July that year.

All the properties are spacious and well insulated and have gas heating and hot water, supplemented by solar panels to reduce energy costs. They use enhanced thermal efficiency measures.

The Jamieson Terrace properties are all three bedroom terraced houses, built over three storeys and the four properties in Hillsley Road are four bedroom terraced houses, built over four storeys.

Additional features on all the dwellings are solar catchment rooms, which collect the heat of the sun and boost the temperature of the dwelling during the colder weather. They are something like conservatories, but are integral to the houses and are usable as living space throughout the year.

The solar panel energy collection systems have recently been upgraded to a more modern, more efficient and higher quality one produced by Vaillant Ltd.

Tests on one of the systems has shown a saving of over 400 kilowatts of energy over a four week period. The works were done by Kinetics Ltd, the heating service provider for the council's housing stock.

2005



HOUSING: Residents in raptures as former sportsman turns up as guest of honour

It's the Best surprise as legend calls in to open new office

FOOTBALL legend George Best shocked residents when he turned up as the surprise guest of honour at an official ceremony.

And the man who famously cavorted on a bed covered with £20,000 in cash gave his time for free.

The star arrived at Portsmouth City Council's new housing office in The Kestrels, Wecock, to declare the building open. He looked happy, healthy and relaxed as he and girlfriend Ros Hollidge, 37, chatted with staff and fans who had got wind of his surprise appearance.

He arrived at midday to unveil a plaque and spent more than an hour signing autographs and footballs.

One of those lucky enough to meet the football legend was...

by Elise Brewerton
The News

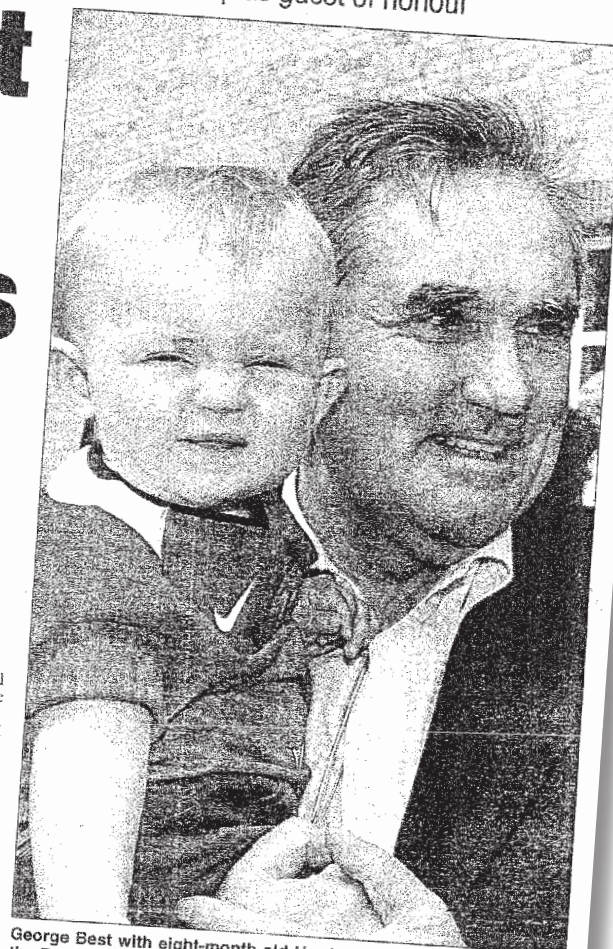
'It was lovely to meet everyone and the work they have done is fantastic and has really turned the area around.'

'George tends to get quite a bad press but he is very good with the public and he enjoys meeting them.'

'He has a real interest in the people of Portsmouth and always enjoys meeting the fans down here.'

After spending time in the new centre he made his way over to Squirrels Pre-School, in the Acorn Community Centre next door, and chatted to the mums and their children.

City councillor Phil Shaddock said Mr Best was chosen to open the centre because of his close links to Portsmouth.



George Best with eight-month-old...

Legendary footballer George Best opened the new Wecock Farm Area Housing Office on 26 May, his last unofficial engagement before his death on 25 November 2005. George helped out with the opening as favour for a friend of a friend.

The new office was built as part of the redevelopment of the Wecock Farm 'village' centre. The existing village centre and an area of land to the north was sold to the Property Developer, Belway, apparently for just £1. In return Belway built the new housing office, the Acorn community centre and a new unit for the one remaining retailer, a Chinese take away.

100 new homes were also built, 23 for social housing and the rest Belway sold for a profit on the open market. Construction began at the start of 2003 and finished in the spring of 2005.

The new office is a two story building with reception area, cash desk/customer service counter, 2 interview rooms, ground floor office space (occupied by the Wecock Housing Team). On the first floor is the staff restroom/kitchen, meeting room and further office space. There are currently 11 staff based at the Wecock office.

2006-8

Portsea area housing office



2006 The new Portsea office was built in the John Pounds Centre. The centre was opened by the great great great grand nephew of John Pounds.

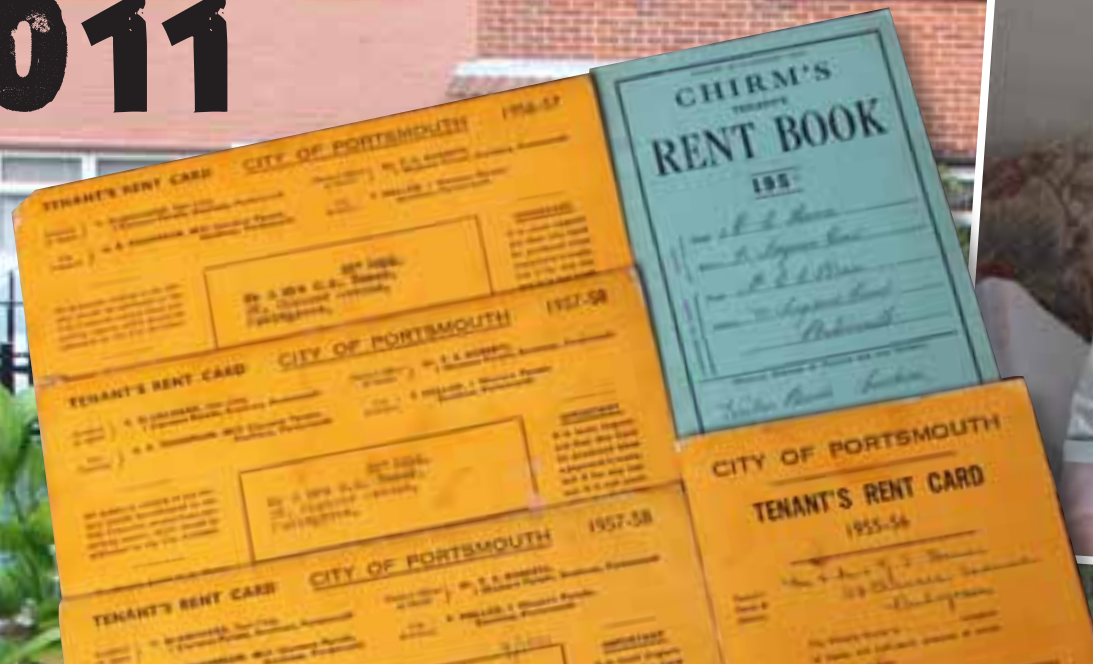
The original office was a shop front in Queen Street and there was also a drop-in surgery in Sarah Robinson House.



2008 A brand new office was opened in September at Leigh Park. Construction of the office was organised by supermarket chain Lidl. The land occupied by the original office was sold to Lidl which it used for its car park, and as part of a deal, Lidl agreed to build the new housing area office.

2011

Gilbert and Georgina Hamer



Gilbert and Georgina Hamer have lived in Portsmouth City Council property since 1953 and have even kept their original rent books.

The young couple moved into two rooms in Seagrove Road where they paid just 12 shillings and sixpence per week. In 1955, when Georgina gave birth to their first son, they moved to a newly-built two-bedroom house with garden in Chaucer Avenue, Paulsgrove, where they spent a happy couple of years, and paid one pound, eight shillings and 10 pence for their weekly rent.

Gilbert worked as a joiner in Portsmouth, and cycled to and from work each day, like many other Paulsgrove residents at the time. Georgina said "There were a few shops in Allaway Avenue but we also had a fish van and vegetable van round a couple of times a week."

Unfortunately Georgina's father became ill and they needed to return to Portsmouth to help her mother. Gilbert said "I was working on the consultants' suites at the Royal Hospital and met Councillor Thoroughgood. He wrote me a note to give to the housing manager at the Clarence Parade housing offices. We had a chat and he asked me where I wanted to live. We found the flat here in Sultan Road but it had been used as a paint store, so Georgina's mum came and scrubbed the floors, and we did it up and moved in 1957. We've been here ever since."

Gilbert's poor health means that the couple will need to move soon from the three-bedroom flat they called home for the past 54 years but they have enjoyed their time in Sultan Road and hope to stay close by.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF COUNCIL HOUSING



On 24 October 2012 housing commemorated a significant event, and kick-started a year of celebrations across council housing areas.

The historic occasion marked 100 years since the first council houses were completed in Curzon Howe Road, Portsea, and was celebrated by the unveiling of a new plaque next to the original commemorative stone. The unveiling by Portsea councillor Jacqui Hancock was attended by residents, councillors and council staff.

Beneficial School children, 1920's



Children from Portsea Venture Playground, 2012



Councillor Steven Wylie, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "It was great to celebrate council homes in the city. These homes have been standing for one hundred years, and will hopefully be here for another hundred."

Previously, in a modern reproduction of a 1920's photograph taken at the Beneficial School, kids from Portsea Venture Playground dressed up to imitate the original picture. Staff from the Groundlings Theatre, on the former school site, did a fantastic job of dressing and making-up the kids to look like their original counterparts, bridging the gap between old and new.

WHERE ARE WE NOW – 2011

We're proud to say that we've come a long way since the days of squalid slums and homes for heroes. Mistakes have been made along the way, but we've built and learnt from them. We've made huge leaps in the right direction, and we think we're getting it right much more of the time.

The council's housing service currently manages more than 15,000 mixed properties. Homes consist of tower blocks, flats, maisonettes, houses and bungalows, mostly on the estates of Buckland and Somerstown but there are individual properties scattered throughout the Portsmouth area.

A third of our stock is located in Leigh Park and Wecock Farm.

| Property type and number of beds | Bedsit | 1 bed | 2 bed | 3 bed | 4 bed | 5 bed | 6 bed | Total |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| Bedsit/studio | 495 | | | | | | | 495 |
| Bungalow | | 193 | 14 | 13 | | | | 220 |
| Flat | | 3991 | 3394 | 696 | 16 | 6 | | 8103 |
| House | | 1 | 1293 | 2667 | 360 | 46 | 3 | 4370 |
| Maisonette | | 2 | 574 | 1377 | 24 | 4 | | 1981 |
| Total | 495 | 4187 | 5275 | 4753 | 400 | 56 | 3 | 15169 |

The service also owns, runs and maintains two mobile home sites, green space, garages, parking sites and the city's housing waiting list.

Over the years, we have made significant improvements to the way we help our customers. It's a simple solution; customers tell us what they need and we respond. To find out more about systems thinking, the management system we use in the housing service, visit: www.systemsthinking.co.uk

Technological advances have transformed the housing service, helping us enormously to streamline the way we work. The recent review of our rental income system has seen the introduction of a more efficient way of working and a new computer system. This is a far cry from the early days of the first housing service where rents were collected manually from tenants.

GREEN AND CLEAN



Our large areas of green space and the communal areas around our properties are looked after by our own cleaners and gardeners. We created these 'Green and Clean' teams in response to complaints and an old, inflexible system.

Tenants are able to request maintenance, cleaning or grounds work by phone 24 hours a day. Our system allows an operative to assess the job and just get it done. It's as simple as that, using technology to help. Customer satisfaction has improved and staff are much more satisfied with the new way of working.



Green and clean team, Portsea

SHELTERED HOUSING

Our sheltered housing schemes provide accommodation for vulnerable elderly residents up to category 2.5. We have made it our priority to understand what people need from our service by spending time at the schemes discussing residents' needs with staff and with them.

Connors Keep, Wecock Farm

HOUSING OPTIONS



Housing options deal with housing waiting list allocation, housing advice and homelessness and signing tenants up for our local authority property, providing a one-to-one service for our customers. We give them an honest and realistic service by not raising false hopes of simply being added to the housing register.


Housing options officers get to know the applicants' circumstances and place them into one of four housing needs priority bands where people wait in strict date order. We think this is a fair system that is easy to understand.

Our new tenancy officers deal with new tenants moving into properties.

The customer now has control over many more choices than in the past, such as:

- being able to choose when their tenancy will end with no statutory notice period
- tenancies can be terminated on any day
- tenants choose whether to accept the new home
- the new tenancy officer will do extra works for the individual (within the remit of the service)
- the customer chooses when the new tenancy will start
- the customer chooses where and when to sign up

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



The housing service employs its own dedicated team which tackles anti-social behaviour involving our tenants and leaseholders in Portsmouth and Havant. The team works in partnership with other organisations including Hampshire Constabulary, Portsmouth City Council, Havant Borough Council and the Safer Portsmouth Partnership to tackle these problems.

The housing anti-social behaviour team works closely with the area housing offices and other agencies within Portsmouth and Havant to ensure that residents can live peacefully and safely in their neighbourhood. This includes helping housing staff to obtain evidence or by supporting witnesses.

We have made a public commitment to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour by signing up to the Government's Respect Standard for Housing Management.

This highlights our current stand against anti-social behaviour and our commitment to helping our residents enjoy a quiet life in a safe and peaceful environment.



Housing anti-social behaviour team

REPAIRS


These days we bring a comprehensive repairs and maintenance service to our residents and they seem very satisfied, giving us an average score of 9.93 out of 10.

By working in partnership with our contractors Comserve, Liberty Gas and Mountjoy we ensure repairs are carried out at the customer's convenience, with the minimum of disruption.

We strive to arrange a mutually convenient time to carry out the right repair at the right time. Customers can report repairs directly to us or through our area housing offices. Our green and clean teams carry mobile phones so maintenance and service calls can be quickly telephoned through as they are received, and can be dealt with more promptly.



PLANNED MAINTENANCE



Housing continually assesses the condition of the housing stock, carrying out planned maintenance schemes, such as replacing windows, where required. For the year starting March 2011 the council will spend an estimated £35million a year carrying out maintenance and improvement works to our properties.

Maintenance facts and figures:

- 5,367 new heating system installed since 2005
- 5,407 new kitchens installed since 2005
- 1,828 new bathrooms installed since 2005
- 41,200 day to day repairs carried out in the first 8 months of 2010


THE JOHN POUNDS DEVELOPMENT, PORTSEA

In 1996 the first steps towards developing the John Pounds site were taken. The development has evolved into a major success story for residents, businesses and the council, scooping top awards and gaining national recognition. In March 2011 the final piece of community artwork to be commissioned by the council was unveiled.

The regeneration scheme was largely managed and funded by money from the housing revenue account. The development is helping to maintain a sustainable community in Portsea and is providing much-needed medical, community, retail, arts and sports facilities to the area, as well as sought-after social housing.

Aerial view of John Pounds development

SOMERSTOWN REGENERATION PROJECT

An artist's impression of a row of modern, three-story houses in Somerstown. The houses are constructed from red brick and feature large, irregularly shaped windows and balconies. The architecture is contemporary and angular. In the background, a taller, more traditional brick building is visible. The foreground shows some greenery and a few people walking on a path, suggesting a residential setting.

Artist's impressions of properties at Henrietta Place, Somerstown

Exciting plans are already underway to transform Somerstown and secure a bright new future for its residents.

The council is investing £20 million in Somerstown to develop the area. This includes new, quality community facilities, retail and business units and family homes. An adventure playground was opened in July 2010, and on 19 January 2011 the Lord Mayor, Cllr Paula Riches, laid the first brick to mark the start of building work for 29 eco-friendly family homes in Henrietta Place.

Other facilities will include a landmark community hub including modern youth and health facilities, plus a new area housing office. The hub will span a major dual carriageway, Winston Churchill Avenue, and will link Somerstown with the heart of the city.

The Somerstown regeneration team is currently exploring delivery options to extend the project to a second phase to build more quality, eco-friendly family houses and infrastructure in the regeneration zone.

WATTS ROAD

Artist's impressions of properties at Watt's Road



Building works with contractor Jacobs Foreman also started in March 2011 on new council-owned, family homes in Buckland, the first for more than ten years.

The homes are to receive £840,000 grant money from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), and will be ready for families to move in to by December 2011.

The development consists of two five-bedroom houses, four four-bedroom houses and six flats - three three-bedroom flats, three two-bedroom flats, two of which are to be designated mobility units.

The block of flats will also be named soon, by pupils from Charles Dickens Schools, along with residents who live close by. Pupils will also bury a time capsule into the foundations of the development.

EXPANSION OF THE SERVICE

The housing department not only provides a service to its tenants and leaseholders, it also supports the rest of the council (where it can) to help keep vital community services going for the whole city.

Essentially, the housing service can aid services that are of a benefit to housing tenants, and the wider community. A good example of this is the adventure playgrounds, which will primarily be of benefit to housing tenants, but are for use of all residents of the city.

The housing service can also purchase and renovate disused buildings that can be transformed in to council-owned homes, which will help the many families in Portsmouth that desperately need housing.

Our commercial and leaseholder services team manage and maximise housing's assets to provide additional income for the council.



St Clare's nursery, Leigh Park

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS



Six adventure playgrounds around the city are now under the housing service's management. The playgrounds are located in Buckland, Somerstown, Stamshaw, Landport, Portsea and Paulsgrove.

They provide much-needed play facilities for local children who live in flats and don't benefit from having their own garden. The playgrounds provide a wide range of play opportunities with some including zip-wires, basket swings and tree houses.

Landport adventure playground

COMMUNITY CENTRES



Community centres in Portsmouth are now maintained by housing, including the Brook Club, and community centres in Southsea, Paulsgrove, Buckland and Fratton.

This is especially important at a time where public services have to provide more for local people, with less government money available.

OUR AREA OFFICES

Building the new area office at Leigh Park

Our seven local area housing offices now help customers with a range of housing-related services. We help with repairs and maintenance queries, receive payments owed to the council, and give general housing advice.

Our offices are open Monday to Thursday between 8.30am and 5pm and on Friday between 8.30am and 4pm. When the area offices are closed there is an out of hours team on 023 9282 4244 who can help customers.

Area housing office locations

Buckland

57-61 Kingston Road, Portsmouth, PO2 7DP
023 9260 6500
cro.buckland@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

City South / Somerstown

Wilmcote House, Tyseley Road, Southsea, PO5 4NA
023 9260 6300
cro.citysouth@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Landport

24 Commercial Place, Portsmouth, PO1 4DT
023 9260 6400
cro.landport@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Leigh Park

56 Stockheath Road, Havant, PO9 5HQ
023 9230 6900
cro.leighpark@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Paulsgrove

195a Allaway Avenue, Portsmouth, PO6 4HG
023 9260 6030
cro.paulsgrove@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Portsea

John Pounds Centre, 23 Queen Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3HN
023 9260 6200
cro.portsea@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Wecock Farm

5 The Kestrels, 76 Eagle Avenue, Waterlooville, PO8 9UB
023 9260 6100
cro.wecockfarm@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

POTENTIAL UPCOMING PROJECTS

A number of further projects are also being considered, which will mean the HRA supports vital community services, including the Charles Dickens Centre, a disused property at Seaway Crescent and housing for adults with learning disabilities. If achieved, these projects could potentially save significantly more for the council's central funds.

Charles Dickens Centre

Photographic references

The photographs we have used for this project were mainly sourced through Portsmouth local history centre at Portsmouth central library or are the property of Portsmouth City Council's housing service. Here are references of all the photographs used and how to contact us if you require further information.

Key:

PLHC – Portsmouth local history centre

PCCHS – Portsmouth City Council housing service

Page 1 (Cover) Somerstown aerial view. PLHC ref.160_70_3

Page 2 (Introduction) Junction of Somerville Road and Forbury Road, Somerstown. PLHC ref.G72

Page 3 (Early days) Stained glass window of John de Gisors at St Thomas' Cathedral. PCCHS

Page 4 (Early days) Map of Portsmouth and surrounding area 1194. PLHC.'The origins of Portsmouth and the first charter' by Sarah Quail and Yvonne Hunt pages 16-17

Page 5 (1811/1820) Somerstown. PLHC ref.G76

Page 6 (1849) Kent Street, Portsea. PLHC ref.1974_657

Page 7 (1850) Demolition of White's Row, Portsea, 1910. PLHC ref.477a_4_59

Page 8 (1885) Housing of the working classes act. PCCHS

Page 9 (1898) Eastney farm estate elevations. PLHC ref.3/38/13

Page 10 (Life in the slums...) Butcher W Kent on the corner of Whites Row and Queen Street. PLHC ref. 477A/4/30

Page 11 (Life in the slums...) Children dressed up for a play at the Beneficial School, 1912. PLHC ref.536a_2_3

Page 12 (Life in the slums...) Queen Street, Portsea. PLHC.

Page 13 (1909) Slum housing in Britain Street, Portsea. Photograph supplied by kind permission of Anthony Triggs

Page 14 (1910) Demolition of White's Row, Portsea, 1910. PLHC ref.477a_4_58

Page 15 (1912) Plaque unveiling, Curzon Howe Road, 1912. PLHC ref.1499a_22

Page 16 (1912) PLHC negative elevations Curzon Howe Road. PLHC.

Page 17 (1919) Aerial view of Wymering. PLHC ref.DA_2_B_1428_11

Page 18 (1924) Fair on Portsdown Hill 1924. PLHC ref.1974_607

Page 19 (1927) Portsmouth Guildhall, 1922. PLHC library archive.

Page 20 (1930-1932) City Treasurers department, 1951. Photograph donated by Mrs Hatch

Page 21 (1939) Bomb damage in Britain Street, Portsea, 1944. PLHC ref. 608a_35

History of housing

Page 22 (1944) Leigh Park House. PLHC ref. 477a_4_73

Page 23 (1945) Wymering Racecourse 1915-1918. PLHC. Paulsgrove House. PLHC ref. 320A_1_1

Page 24 Laying foundations in Paulsgrove. PLHC ref.496a_1_384

Page 25 Diane and Irene Goldsmith, Deerhurst Crescent, Paulsgrove, 1949. PLHC ref. 1995_316

Page 26 (1946) Leigh Park, pre-estate. PLHC ref.AE18

Page 27 (1947) Barncroft Way shops. PLHC ref.AE2

Page 28 (1949) Adsdean Close, Leigh Park. PLHC.

Page 29 (1950-1953) Hillside girls and boys school. Paulsgrove primary school archives

Page 30 (1954-1955) Leigh Park shops. PLHC ref.DA_2_b_307_18

Page 31 (1958) Sarah Robinson House, Buckland, Wingfield Street, Buckland. PCCHS

Page 32 (1959) Area housing offices. PCCHS

Page 33 (1961) Crookhorn Estate 1978. PLHC ref.482/77/3

Page 34 (1963) Paulsgrove Community Centre, Leigh Park old housing office. PCCHS

Page 35 (1964) Rent protests. Cuttings from the News 8 and 10 February 1964. PLHC.

Page 36 (1965) Portsdown park elevations. PLHC ref.1/40/5

Page 37 (1970) Leamington House. PLHC ref.DA/2/B/1196

Page 38 (1975-1976) Estella Road flats, Buckland. PCCHS. South Brighton Street housing office. PLHC ref.DA/2/B/1205

Page 39 (1980) For sale sign. PCCHS

Page 40 (1984) Portsdown Park during demolition. PLHC ref.4_88_10

Page 41 (1991) Inside of 26 Curzon Howe Road. PLHC ref. (from Anthony Quail)

Page 42 (2004) Jamieson Terrace, Paulsgrove. PCCHS

Page 43 (2005) George Best opening Wecock Farm office. PCCHS

Page 44 (2006-2008) Portsea Housing office, Leigh Park new housing office. PCCHS

Page 45 (2011) Gilbert and Georgina Hamer. PCCHS

From page 46 onwards, all photos provided by PCCHS (except main image on page 50 from stock library).

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<http://cityreadinglines.blogspot.com/2007/10/history-of-portsmouth.html>
- Wikipedia
- Local histories **www.localhistories.org**
- Staunton records from 1947 year by year
www.leighpark.stauntoninfo.co.uk/27501

Further resources:

- Portsmouth Central Library local history centre
- Portsmouth City Council's website **www.portsmouth.gov.uk**
- Vanguard systems thinking for service organisations
www.systemsthinking.co.uk

Produced and edited by Portsmouth City Council's housing marketing communications team and in-house graphic design service. To contact us please email kathy.smith@portsmouthcc.gov.uk